

single larva found was reared through to the adult stage. This was of special interest as several previous searches on Guernsey, and especially on Herm, had proved unsuccessful. And at Crabby Bay some old stems of Viper's-bugloss *Echium vulgare* were gathered and a month later produced a large number of *Tinagma ocnerosomella*. Both of these species are new vice-county records. At Braye Bay Phil found a larva of *Acleris aspersana* feeding on Creeping Cinqufoil *Potentilla reptans* and two adults of *Aproaerema anthyllidella*.

Finally, since Phil mentioned to me in passing several years ago that the moth I had been recording for some time in Guernsey as *Cydia succedana* was in fact not that species at all but *Cydia ulicetana*, and that *succedana* was a different species apparently not found in Britain, I have become interested in this common tortricid which is found in numbers in Guernsey wherever Gorse *Ulex europaeus* grows. A short series was collected from several parts of Alderney and on dissection all proved to be *ulicetana* as has been the case with specimens examined from Guernsey, Sark and Herm.

As always I am grateful to Phil Sterling for his support and on this occasion especially for checking a few of my *ulicetana* dissections. Struan Robertson could not have been more hospitable nor Roland Gauvain and Graeme Neal of the Alderney Wildlife Trust more helpful.— P. D. M. COSTEN, La Broderie, La Claire Mare, St. Peters, Guernsey GY7 9QA. (E-mail: pcosten@guernsey.net).

***Lymantria monacha* (L.) (Lep.: Lymantriidae): extension of range**

This species seems not to have been an inhabitant of north-west Kent, including what is now regarded as south-east London, for some two hundred years, excepting at Darenth Wood during the 1860s and the West Wickham area a decade earlier (Chalmers-Hunt, 1961-63. *The Butterflies and Moths of Kent. Suppl. Ent. Rec.* 74: 58). As that author suggests, the species had a largely Wealden distribution in Kent. A hundred years later, in the mid-twentieth century, the species was again reported as present in the West Wickham area, due to a lack of published records or a recrudescence following long absence. Also, in the 1940s it was noted in the well-wooded Petts Wood neighbourhood. However, no further records appeared in Chalmers-Hunt's work, which included records until 1980.

Two male *Lymantria monacha* observed on a high wall behind a street light at Dartford on 24 August 1946 seem to be the first for this area. The location is not far from my present residence where I commenced to operate an m.v. light in 1969. However, more than fifty years were to elapse before *L. monacha* came to the light, suggesting that the 1946 specimens were vagrants from elsewhere. Two males were attracted to the light in 2002, on 28 July and 3 August. A further specimen arrived on 30 July 2003 and in 2004 two more appeared – on 20 and 25 July. This suggests the species may be established locally, probably in the neighbouring mixed woodland, indicating an extension of range as has occurred with several other species in north-west Kent for the first time, or after a very long apparent absence, such as *Hyloicus*

pinastri (L.), *Eilema depressa* (Esp.), *Aporophyla nigra* (Haw.) and *Chloroclysta siterata* (Hufn.)— B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HH.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Records of Black Arches *Lymantria monacha* in Hertfordshire and Middlesex appear to confirm B. K. West's supposition that this species is extending its range. In these two counties, the species began to appear during 1997 and 1998 at well-recorded sites from which it had until then been apparently absent (see discussion and distribution map in Plant, 1999. *London Naturalist* **78**: 147 – 171). In Hertfordshire alone, published records suggest (Foster, 1937. *Trans. Herts Nat. Hist. Soc.*) that it was widespread in the older woodlands of southern Hertfordshire from around 1890 to the 1930s (though this is supposition as Foster's records were seldom accompanied by dates). However, in the years from about 1950 to 1970 there were reports from only four sites. In the years 1997 to 2003, on the other hand, the Herts Moth Database shows records from no less than 60 sites and these are spread across the entire county including the largely oak-free northern half, on the border with Cambridgeshire, suggesting that some other trees or trees and being used by the larvae. I have recorded larvae feeding on Hornbeam in Hertfordshire in 2000.— COLIN W. PLANT

Some observations on moths nectaring at flowers

Like many entomologists, I have piles of diaries, field note-books and files stacked full of interesting observations which I have never reported. The writing of the new Field Guide to Moths (Waring, Townsend & Lewington, 2003) provided an all too brief opportunity to re-examine some of these accumulated data. One of the topics I seem to have recorded a lot of information about and never brought together concerns moths nectaring at flowers at dusk and after dark. A brief search of the standard textbooks of the last 150 years shows that many include a short discourse on the value of examining natural attractants including flowers, over-ripe fruit, aphid honeydew and oozing sap when searching for moths. Generally, the merits are extolled of investigating catkins of willows such as Goat Willow *Salix caprea* in the spring, Ivy blossom *Hedera helix* in the autumn, and plants such as Ling Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* in the summer, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* for long-tongued hawk-moths such as the Large Elephant Hawk *Deilephila elpenor*, along with inspections of naturalised exotics such as Buddleia *B. davidii*, Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber* and garden cultivars of Tobacco plant *Nicotiana* spp. and Phlox *Phlox paniculata*. If you want more detail on which species visit what and when, one of the best sources is still J.W. Tutt's "Practical Hints for the Field Lepidopterist (1901-1905, reprinted by the AES in 1994), which is always a source of inspiration and fascination. Having re-read the above and conducted a brief computer literature search, which of course failed to find the myriad of relevant observations included in reports of field meetings and excursions in the entomological journals, I include the following thoughts and observations as a small and possibly preliminary contribution to